

Spotlight on: Complete Streets

What are Complete Streets?

Complete Streets are streets for everyone. They are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Complete Streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work. They allow buses to run on time and make it safe for people to walk to and from train stations.

Creating Complete Streets means Town governments and their partner transportation agencies must change their approach to building community roads. By adopting a Complete Streets policy, communities direct their transportation planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right of way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation. This means that every transportation project will make the street network better and safer for drivers, transit users, pedestrians, and bicyclists— making your town a better place to live.



What does a Complete Street look like?

What are the benefits of Complete Streets? There is not a singular design solution for Complete Streets; each one is unique and responds to community needs and development context. A complete street may include: sidewalks, bicycle lanes (or wide paved shoulders), special bus lanes, comfortable and accessible public transportation stops, frequent and safe crossing opportunities, median islands, accessible pedestrian signals, curb extensions, narrower travel lanes, roundabouts, and more. A Complete Street in a rural area may look different from a Complete Street in a highly urban area, but both are designed to balance safety and convenience for everyone using the road.

What are the benefits of Complete Streets?

Complete Streets help create livable communities for various types of users, including children, people with disabilities, and older adults. Complete Streets improve equity, safety, and public health, while reducing transportation costs and traffic congestion. Please see the website www.smartgrowthamerica.org/program/national-complete-streets-coalition/ for more information on Complete Streets, their design characteristics, and impact on creating more complete, livable communities.

— Source: *Smart Growth America Organization Website, July 17, 2018*

